

Reading Group on Owen Barfield Begins September 16

A Biweekly Journey Through Owen Barfield's *The Rediscovery of Meaning*



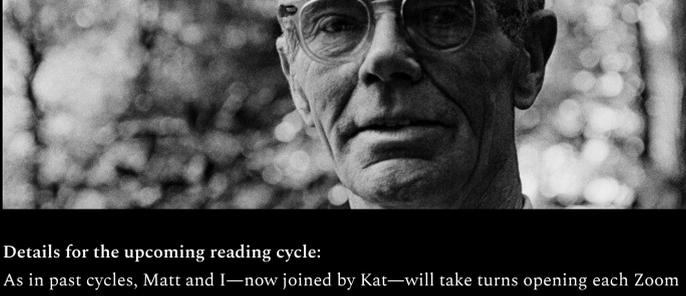
URPHÄNOMEN, ASHTON K. ARNOLDY, AND MATTHEW DAVID SEGALL
AUG 10, 2025

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Dear Friends of Urphänomen,

We hope you've all been well. At long last, we've arrived at a starting date and reading selection for our next cycle. Many thanks to those who have reached out about joining—we appreciate your interest and patience.

Rather than focus on a text by Rudolf Steiner as we have in previous cycles, this time we'll be exploring the work of one of his foremost English-speaking interpreters: the philosopher Owen Barfield. The elegance and brilliant coherence of Barfield's thinking are reasons enough to devote a cycle to him, but another motivation is our hope to spread awareness of—and generate interest in—a conference on his life and work that Matt, Kat Ziemke (a current PhD student at CIIS whose dissertation is focused on the work of Jean Gebser and Barfield), and I are planning, likely to be held at the California Institute of Integral Studies in the fall of 2026.



Details for the upcoming reading cycle:

As in past cycles, Matt and I—now joined by Kat—will take turns opening each Zoom meeting with a 10–15 minute summary of the reading selection. This time, we'll meet *biweekly* for one hour at 9am Pacific Time, rather than weekly. Our first meeting will be on September

Instead of reading from the collective assignment include "The Rediscovery of Meaning" purchasing one, and my signature for

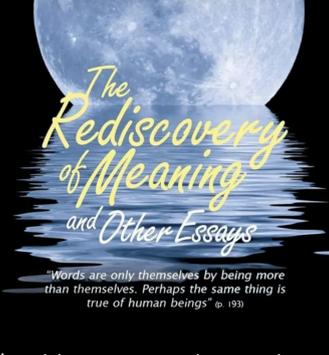
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essay per meeting first reading title essay, and don't plan on please see below



Formerly, we've invited participants to summarize upcoming reading selections. That invitation still stands. If you feel so inclined, just let us know at least a week ahead of the scheduled reading.

Please note: these meetings will be livestreamed on YouTube. You're not required to be on camera or to speak; listening is also a form of participation.

All are welcome—please spread the word.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Warmly,

Ashton

Schedule (*subject to revision)

- ZOOM link: <https://ciis.zoom.us/j/99130696631>

Week 1 – Sept 16
Introduction & "The Rediscovery of Meaning" (pp. 3–29)

Week 2 – Sept 30
Dream, Myth, and Philosophical Double Vision (pp. 30–44)

Week 3 – Oct 14
The Meaning of "Literal" (pp. 45–62)

Week 4 – Oct 28
Poetic Diction and Legal Fiction (pp. 63–93)

Week 5 – Nov 11
The Harp and the Camera (pp. 94–114)

Week 6 – Nov 25
Where is Fancy Bred? (pp. 115–134)

Week 7 – Dec 9
The Rediscovery of Allegory (I) (pp. 135–145)

Week 8 – Dec 23
The Rediscovery of Allegory (II) (pp. 146–159)

Week 9 – Jan 6, 2026
Imagination and Inspiration (pp. 160–188)

Week 10 – Jan 20
Language and Discovery (pp. 189–208)

Week 11 – Feb 3
Matter, Imagination, and Spirit (pp. 209–226)

Week 12 – Feb 17
Self and Reality (pp. 227–258)

Week 13 – Mar 3
Science and Quality (pp. 259–275)

Week 14 – Mar 17
The Coming Trauma of Materialism (pp. 276–296)

Week 15 – Mar 31
Participation and Isolation: A Fresh Light on Present Discontents (pp. 297–320)

Week 16 – Apr 14
Form in Art and in Society (pp. 321–337)

Week 17 – Apr 28
Philology and the Incarnation (pp. 338–350)

Week 18 – May 12
The Psalms of David (pp. 351–366)

Week 19 – May 26
The "Son of God" and the "Son of Man" (pp. 367–385)

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Kevin Dowling · Aug 12
♥️ Liked by Ashton K. Arnoldy, Matthew David Segall
 This is awesome! I'm looking forward to dropping in.
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Bruce Kirchoff · 3d
♥️ Liked by Ashton K. Arnoldy, Matthew David Segall
 This is a great choice. Unfortunately, many of the dates conflict with other events on my schedule. I will attend as much as I can, but will most likely have to miss a number of the meetings.
 Thanks for organizing these reading groups!
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Announcing Our Next Reading Group
 We'll meet at 10am PT on Nov 29 via webcam to begin reading "Anthroposopical Leading Thoughts" (GA 26) By Rudolf Steiner
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Becoming Michael's Companions
 Rudolf Steiner's lectures to the youth published in October 1922 (CW 217)
 NOV 7, 2024 · URPHÄNOMEN AND MATTHEW DAVID SEGALL

The Inner Realities of Evolution
 Reflections on Rudolf Steiner's account of planetary evolution in GA 132
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